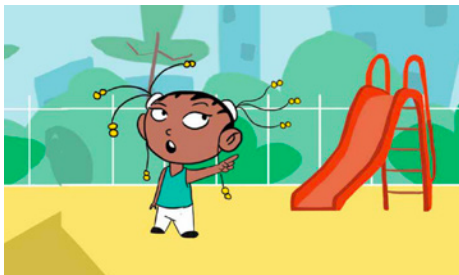


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Librarian Jacqueline Brellenthin (seated) supports the BIBFRAME pilot, as do cataloging policy specialist Paul Frank (standing) and Jodi Williamschen, a technical metadata standards specialist.

Shawn Miller

## Library's Vast Collections to Achieve Greater Visibility Online

A new cataloging framework will make Library content more accessible on the web.

**BY WENDI A. MALONEY**

For decades now, libraries have relied on MARC (machine-readable cataloging) to provide access to collections. When patrons sit down at reading-room computer terminals to find out what libraries have on offer, they can thank MARC for the convenience.

Soon, that will start to change, incrementally, in the same way automated MARC records gradually replaced oaken chests filled with ink-on-paper cards. And just as the Library of Congress was a pioneer in creating MARC, it is spearheading development of a

new cataloging framework for the internet age. Dubbed BIBFRAME, the project is set to achieve some major milestones in coming months.

Thanks to an intensive training program now underway, the number of Library catalogers working in BIBFRAME will expand from 100 to more than 300 by year's end – including the entire cataloging staff of the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate (ABA). What's more, catalogers will begin working exclusively in BIBFRAME for the first time.

Participants in an ongoing BIB-

**BIBFRAME, CONTINUED ON 6**

## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at [ldav@loc.gov](mailto:ldav@loc.gov).

Muriel Bellamy  
Paul Sayers

Eric Wolfson

## CRS 2021 GRADUATE RECRUIT PROGRAM

This competitive program of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) offers librarian and research-analyst opportunities across issue and service areas, including public finance, foreign affairs, science and technology and legislative information management.

This summer, employees selected for the program will be detailed or temporarily promoted (depending on qualifications) for an initial period of up to 120 days. Those who perform successfully may be considered for conversion to permanent or permanent-conditional appointments with CRS at the GS-9 or GS-11 level.

Position listings, eligibility requirements and salary information are available on CRS' career website (<https://go.usa.gov/xAzqC>). Application instructions and closing dates are included in vacancy announcements.

Questions? Contact Carmen Reese at [CRSGraduateRecruit@crs.loc.gov](mailto:CRSGraduateRecruit@crs.loc.gov) or (202) 707-6275.

## STAFF INNOVATOR APPLICATIONS INVITED

Staff from the Library Collections and Services Group (LCSG), the Law Library and Library Services are invited to apply for a 120-day detail as a staff innovator, an initiative of LCSG and LC Labs. The detailee(s) will design and execute a project that takes an innovative approach to a Library collection, workflow or service. Apply by Feb. 11: <https://go.usa.gov/xAS6c>.

LC Labs is hosting a virtual open house on Feb. 8 from noon to 1 p.m. Call in via [locgov.webex.com/meet/ejakeway](https://locgov.webex.com/meet/ejakeway) or +1-510-210-8882 using the access code 909 140 359.

For more information, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xAS6y>; review the FAQs at <https://go.usa.gov/xAS6f>; or contact Eileen Jakeway Manchester at [ejakeway@loc.gov](mailto:ejakeway@loc.gov).

## LC LABS SEEKS RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

The LC Labs team in the Office of the Chief Information Office seeks participants for a user research initiative to help shape future experiments and explore new ways to make the Library's collections and resources more useful. K-12 teachers, community leaders, data journalists and creatives of all disciplines who use the Library's digital resources in their work are encouraged to share their insights with the team. Friends and family of staff members are also welcome to participate.

Apply at <http://bit.ly/39zLVet> or send an email to [LC-Labs@loc.gov](mailto:LC-Labs@loc.gov).

## STORYTELLING FOR JUSTICE: AN ONLINE CONVERSATION

**Feb. 10, 5 p.m.**  
<http://bit.ly/205CUuG>

Elizabeth Alexander, president of the Mellon Foundation, will lead a conversation with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, Kelly Lytle Hernández of UCLA and Jarrett Martin Drake of Harvard University about how libraries and archives are empowering underrepresented communities and advocating for greater inclusion of marginalized stories in the country's historical record.

# GAZETTE

LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette)

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### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

### Library of Congress Gazette

Washington, DC 20540-1620

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Feb. 19 Gazette is Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

# New Division Created to Centralize Book Programming

Literary Initiatives will collaborate with staff across the Library on book-related events.

BY GUY LAMOLINARA

Literary programming at the Library is undergoing a transformation thanks to a new division established last fall within the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement (CLLE), called Literary Initiatives. By creating this new division, the Library hopes to strengthen and expand its outreach by promoting books to the broadest possible audience.

The Library has brought book programming to the public for decades, and many Library divisions have been engaged in presenting such events. But until now, there has been no overall approach to a wider, cohesive strategy. Literary Initiatives, officially established on Oct. 1, is charged with overseeing that strategy. The division will develop its own programs as well as work with the Library Events Office to coordinate and approve Library-wide literary programming.

"The Library has a long history of bringing high-quality literary events to a book-loving public," said CLLE Director Shari Werb. "The new Literary Initiatives fulfills a dream to offer to the public user-centered events that connect directly to the incomparable collections of the Library of Congress."

Under the direction of Marie Arana, the Library's literary director, Literary Initiatives brings together the Poetry and Literature Center and the Center for the Book, with staff members Deziree Arnaiz, Rob Casper, Anya Creightney, Anne Holmes and this writer. The new division includes the Center for the Book's Affiliates Program as well as numerous other programs and honors, including the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, the National Ambassador for Young



Nancy Steiner

**David Michaelis will kick off the series *Made at the Library* on March 18, discussing his new book about Eleanor Roosevelt.**

People's Literature and the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction.

Literary Initiatives also works closely with the Signature Programs Office to produce the National Book Festival. In particular, Literary Initiatives is responsible for establishing the festival's theme and overall program design; identifying, booking and managing all festival authors and moderators; and creating associated festival content.

Library staff are already quite familiar with the purview of these responsibilities. The National Book Festival just celebrated its 20th year; the current poet laureate (the 23rd in Library history) is Joy Harjo; Jason Reynolds is the seventh national ambassador for young people's literature; the most recent recipient (the 12th) of the Prize for American Fiction is Colson Whitehead; and the Center for the Book was founded by public law in 1977. The last affiliate center was established in Puerto Rico in 2018, bringing the number of affiliates to 53. (The others are in each of the

50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.)

Literary Initiatives will continue to develop programs geared toward users and communities, built upon survey results and viewer data. This strategy will prioritize diversity at the local, regional and national level, with both virtual and in-person programming and series.

National Book Festival Presents which started in September 2019, is one such series. The division also just premiered *Behind the Book*, which provides an inside look into the work of distinguished professionals in the U.S. publishing industry. This spring, the division will launch *Made at the Library* in conjunction with the Library Collections and Services Group. It will highlight authors who have done extensive research in the Library's collections. The first program will take place on March 18 at 7 p.m. and feature David Michaelis, who did much of the research for his new biography of Eleanor Roosevelt in the Manuscript Division.

"Literary Initiatives looks forward to implementing the many exciting possibilities that this new strategy affords," Arana said. "We encourage anyone with an idea for a literary event to contact us. We want to collaborate with you to shape it into the best it can be."

Send ideas for book-related programs to [literature@loc.gov](mailto:literature@loc.gov) and include "program idea" in the subject line. ■

## HCD SERVICES PORTAL

During this period of remote work, the Human Capital Directorate (HCD) services portal (<https://bit.ly/31fqIKw>) is there to help. Ask questions of HCD professionals; submit documents related to benefits, retirement and payroll matters; and track requests.



# New Online: From E-Books to Archaeology

The Gazette regularly reports on content released online, including last week's announcement of rare books from the Asian Division's Korean and Japanese collections. Here are some other new or updated digital collections released in the first quarter of fiscal 2021.

## **Open Access Books Collection** (<https://go.usa.gov/xAMQj>)

This is a growing online collection of contemporary open-access e-books, with more than 1,500 currently on offer. All of these books have been made available for download on the Library's website in keeping with the intent of their creators and publishers, who aim to achieve the broadest possible access and reuse. All books added to the collection go through a selection process based on the Library's collections policy. Although the Library holds print copies of some of the open-access e-books, these openly licensed works can be made much more broadly accessible in their digital form.

## **Jay Kislak Collection** (<https://go.usa.gov/xAMQt>)

The Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Archaeology and History of the Early Americas is composed of important archaeological artifacts, rare books, manuscripts, maps and graphic works of art that survey the earliest history of the lands that would become known as the Americas. Kislak donated the collection to the Library in 2014. The dates of the collection items range from around 2000 B.C. to the 21st century. More than 400 unique three-dimensional objects from the pre-Columbian era are included, documenting the indigenous peoples of Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

## **John A. Lomax and Alan Lomax Papers** (<https://go.usa.gov/xAMPP>)

In 1933, John A. Lomax Sr. and his

son Alan Lomax became stewards of a nascent Archive of American Folk-Song established at the Library in 1928. Their tenure lasted until Alan, who had been appointed the archive's assistant in charge, separated from the Library in 1942. During that period, the archive grew in scope and volume. The resulting manuscript material – correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes and writings – was decades later collated into the John A. Lomax and Alan Lomax Papers, the focus of this digital collection. Correspondence and memoranda include voluminous dispatches from the field, letters between the two Lomaxes and exchanges with leading ethnographers of the day.

## **Montgomery C. Meigs Papers** (<https://go.usa.gov/xAMpT>)

The papers of Army officer, engineer, architect and scientist Montgomery C. Meigs (1816–92) consist of 11,000 items (39,635 images), most of which were digitized from 51 reels of previously produced microfilm. Collection materials relate primarily to Meigs' work in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, his service as quartermaster general during and after the Civil War and family matters. The collection also documents his work supervising construction in Maryland and Washington, D.C., of the Washington Aqueduct, additions to the U.S. Capitol and the Pension Office building.

## **Other Updates**

### **Tibetan Oral History Project** (<https://go.usa.gov/xAMpp>)

This online presentation now includes nearly 800 oral history interviews in Tibetan and Chinese (some with accompanying written transcripts in English) that document the social and political history of modern Tibet.

### **Global Legal Research** (<https://go.usa.gov/xAMp6>)

The Publications from the Law Library of Congress webpage



**“Tumi Goes to the Park” is one of many downloadable e-books available in the Open Access Books Collection.**

now includes an additional 250 Global Legal Research Directorate reports.

## **Roger Reynolds** (<https://go.usa.gov/xAMdW>) and (<https://go.usa.gov/xAMdZ>)

New video interviews with the composer and about 20 photos have been added to the online collection.

## **Sri Lankan Elections** (<https://go.usa.gov/xAMdR>)

The Sri Lankan Elections Web Archive has been updated and now includes websites archived during presidential and general elections in 2010, 2015 and 2019–20.

## **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor** (<https://go.usa.gov/xAMdA>)

The collection period of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Web Archive, focusing on energy and infrastructure projects starting in 2018, has been extended through 2021. ■

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## **HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES?**

The Office of the Chief Information Officer's service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact [ocio@loc.gov](mailto:ocio@loc.gov) or (202) 707-7727.



Rob Casper

### Anne Holmes

*Anne Holmes is a program specialist in Literary Initiatives.*

#### **Tell us a little about your background.**

I grew up in a house filled with teachers and books near Lansing, Michigan, and went on to study English/creative writing and music performance at Kalamazoo College. A week before I graduated, I moved to New York City for a summer publishing program at New York University and, shortly thereafter, started working at a publishing company, where I edited industry guides on law firms.

Loving the publishing world but looking for more time to focus on my own creative pursuits, I left New York for graduate school at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where I received a Master of Fine Arts in poetry, worked as managing editor of a poetry magazine and taught undergrad courses in composition and poetry. In the years between graduate school and landing at the Library, I worked for a human rights nonprofit and an international education nonprofit.

#### **What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?**

There aren't many jobs in poetry, so to be a poet and to find a poetry-related position at the largest library in the world – it would seem ridiculous not to pursue it.

I started in the Poetry and Literature Center, which recently joined forces with the Center for the Book to create the new Literary Initiatives division. We develop signature literary programs at the Library, including the National Book Festival and National Book Festival Presents, and we administer literary ambassador positions and prizes – the U.S. Poet Laureate, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction and the Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry.

I manage the development of digital literary programs and resources, coordinate and write blog content, maintain the Poetry and Literature website and oversee curation and digitization efforts for the Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature. Since becoming part of the broader Literary Initiatives division, I've enjoyed collaborating with my colleagues in the division and across the Library to reimagine and diversify the institution's dynamic, audience-first approaches to literary programming.

#### **What are some of your standout projects?**

In 2018, I helped launch the Poetry and Literature Center's inaugural podcast series, "From the Catbird Seat," which was a thrilling and eye-opening venture. The first

season featured archived recordings of poets reading and discussing their work at the Library, alongside interviews with contemporary poets and writers who gave some behind-the-scenes insight into those recordings. The second season, launched in 2019, chronicled poet laureate Tracy K. Smith's travels to rural communities across the country as part of her "American Conversations" signature project.

Most recently, I have been fortunate to work with poet laureate Joy Harjo on developing her "Living Nations, Living Words" signature project, which launched in November. The digital project gathers work by 47 contemporary Native poets in an interactive StoryMap and a newly developed audio collection. It has been a dream working with Joy, the featured poets and with Library colleagues to bring this project to life. I continue to be so grateful for Joy and for the vital work and voices she champions.

#### **What do you enjoy doing outside work?**

I read, write and watch a lot of true crime documentaries. I also edit a poetry journal and co-host an arts and advice podcast with friends. During the pandemic, I've been doing a lot of hiking, backyard birdwatching and jigsaw puzzles.

#### **What is something your co-workers may not know about you?**

I am a classically trained oboist. In grad school, I played in a folk band called the Cinnamon Urns. ■

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### USER DATA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

**Feb. 17, 2 to 3 p.m.**  
<http://bit.ly/3ti6Dkg>

At the next meeting of the Library's User Data Community of Practice, Paulette Hasier, chief of the Geography and Map Division, will discuss her team's work identifying actionable user data, and Wendy Stengel of the User Experience Design team in the Office of the Chief Information Officer will share her work with the Law Library to make its website more user friendly. All staff are welcome to attend.

# Register to Receive a Vaccine

The Health Services Division (HSD) urges all staff members to register in their local jurisdictions to receive updates on local vaccine distribution plans and when they will be eligible to receive a vaccine against the virus that causes COVID-19.

HSD advises staff that the benefits of receiving the vaccine far outweigh any side effects or discomfort that some people experience after receiving the vaccine. HSD further advises staff not to delay vaccination in favor of one vaccine over another. Information about vaccine protocols in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia are available at:

- **Washington, D.C.:** <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc>
- **Maryland:** <https://www.maryland-vax.org/>

- **Virginia:** <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

Vaccines in general protect people from getting sick if they are infected with a virus. The antibody response to currently available COVID-19 vaccines is much stronger than the human body's response to a natural infection and has shown success in keeping people from becoming sick from the virus when they are infected.

Right now, however, there is not enough detailed data to determine how well the antibodies formed are able to neutralize the virus and prevent transmission. Until there is better data on the protection provided by the vaccines, how long they are effective and whether they will reduce virus transmission, it is critical to continue to follow all public health precautions to protect oneself and others.

That includes wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds and washing hands often. It also includes following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention travel guidance (<https://go.usa.gov/xAFmx>), following quarantine guidance after an exposure to someone with COVID-19 and adhering to the Library's mask requirements and health screening and self-assessment guidance (<https://go.usa.gov/xAFm2>).

These fundamental measures prevent infections. HSD reminds all employees that they are required to perform a self-assessment before coming to Library buildings. The screenings at the entrances are for quality assurance and not a substitute for self-monitoring. ■

## BIBFRAME, CONTINUED FROM 1

FRAME pilot have had to key data into both BIBFRAME and MARC to meet the Library's commitment to share its cataloging in MARC. A new tool that converts BIBFRAME records to MARC format will become operational in 2021, eliminating the need for double keying.

It isn't hyperbole to say that MARC, built at the Library under the guidance of Henriette Avram, revolutionized discovery of collections. The Library hired the former National Security Agency computer scientist in 1965 and tasked her with devising a way to compile and disseminate bibliographic records by computer. Steeping herself in the Library's intricate cataloging practices, she exceeded all expectations.

But MARC was created long before the web, and records cataloged in MARC, although usable by computers, aren't fully searchable on the internet. With its link-friendly format, BIBFRAME promises excit-

ing new possibilities for bringing library treasures – from rare print books to the latest born-digital content – to the attention of the wider world.

Say, for example, someone searches for Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" on the internet. When BIBFRAME becomes widespread, in addition to movies, study guides and books to buy, library holdings of the work will also show up among the search results – including numerous editions available at the Library.

"BIBFRAME is making it possible for the Library to operate more effectively in the linked-data world," Beacher Wiggins, ABA's director, said. "When this framework is fully operational, the Library's rich storehouse of bibliographic information will be easily accessible by our users and by other libraries that depend on Library of Congress cataloging to organize their own collections."

The Library of Congress has for decades served the larger library

community – nationally and internationally – by cataloging new content in MARC and distributing records through the Cataloging Distribution Service. Libraries large and small use the records, and that arrangement won't stop anytime soon.

"They don't have to hire a cataloger. They don't have to wait to get the book on the shelf," Sally McCallum, chief of the Network Development and MARC Standards Office, said. "The Library's cataloging saves them a lot of money via MARC."

She estimates that the Library will continue to supply MARC records to the community for another 10 to 20 years as the transition to BIBFRAME proceeds. At the same time, the Library will also make new catalog data available in BIBFRAME format for those libraries that adopt it.

A little more than 10 years ago, the Library concluded that MARC would eventually need to be replaced. Although McCallum's



office improved the searchability of MARC records on the internet – by, for example, enabling the embedding of URLs in them – it had become clear that to achieve maximum retrievability, an encoding scheme compatible with internet standards would be needed. BIBFRAME accomplishes that goal by relying on link-friendly RDF (Resource Description Framework) rules. Staff in McCallum's office developed BIBFRAME using RDF and built a prototype system to test it.

ABA launched its first BIBFRAME pilot in 2015 when 50 Library catalogers, including some in the Library's special collections processing units, began inputting cataloging data for daily incoming materials into an early version of BIBFRAME. By the end of 2020, 100 catalogers were involved.

In entering data, the catalogers follow new descriptive cataloging instructions the Library introduced in 2013. Not only are the rules web-friendly, but they also advance other objectives, including easier processing of nonprint materials, an important consideration as more digital content is being added to library collections.

The new cataloging rules do not, however, integrate perfectly into MARC, which was another factor in favor of BIBFRAME, whose editorial tools and database McCallum and her staff have developed and fine-tuned to accommodate the rules.

Judith Cannan, chief of ABA's Policy, Training and Cooperative Programs Division, is responsible for training catalogers to use BIBFRAME. Her division manages the Library of Congress classification and subject headings as well as a suite of tools used by catalogers worldwide. All the training materials and tools created at the Library for BIBFRAME are likewise being shared with the larger community.

Cannan said she is gratified to have a leadership role with BIBFRAME. "I saw the power of BIBFRAME and what it could do for the library community and for the world's access to knowledge," she said.

In the past several years, others beyond the Library, notably members of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), have contributed descriptive cataloging to BIBFRAME and tested the operation of the format as it has been refined. The PCC is a library-world coalition dedicated to expanding access to collections through cataloging that meets standards of libraries around the world. The Library serves as the PCC's secretariat, which is housed in Cannan's division.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has supported the BIBFRAME effort through multiple grants to Stanford University Libraries, a PCC member, in partnership with the libraries of Cornell and Harvard universities and the University of Iowa. They, in turn, have invited other PCC academic institutions to participate.

"There's a lot going on in the community now," McCallum said. "We encouraged and encouraged the people outside. Now, they have

picked up the ball, and they are running with it, too."

Down the road, once a linked-data environment is firmly established, the Library anticipates enabling catalogs of trusted partners, such as Stanford or Harvard, to be searchable through the Library's web presence. "We're not anywhere near there yet," qualified Cannan. "These are things that will be facing the community in the next 10 years."

"Library of Congress cataloging has provided access to the world's knowledge and creativity for more than 120 years," Wiggins concluded, referencing the fact that, even before MARC, the Library provided printed catalog cards to the library community. "BIBFRAME is an essential springboard for making that access happen from any computer or mobile device, bringing 21st-century library users the same high-quality cataloging wherever and whenever they choose." ■

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## OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the staff intranet at <http://staff.loc.gov/sites/rules-and-regulations/>.

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form at [www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/](http://www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/) or report anonymously by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.